

**Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes
December 16, 2015**

Opened Meeting: 3:05 PM.

Roll Call: Mary Ann Nahf, Sue Vachon, Ann Nemrow, Burr Taylor, Anne Perry, Paul Ciesielski, Wendy Batson, resident. Absent: Deirdre Strachan.

Approval of 12/02 Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Announcements:

Public Hearing at Planning Board (PB) Meeting 12/9:

- Members of the PB questioned why a Pesticide Ordinance, stricter than the State's, was required. J. Knight, resident, gave an overview of the Town's pesticide history to clarify the need to make it more stringent.
- M. Nahf presented the latest version of the Pesticide Ordinance and S. Vachon outlined the changes made since the previous meeting.
- M. Nahf clarified that the lead time to present a proposed ordinance to the Board of Pesticide Control (BPC) for review prior to a town election is seven days, not thirty, since the ordinance is non-agricultural.
- The PB can either pass the proposed Pesticide Ordinance on to the Town Selectmen or hold a second public hearing. (Only one resident showed up for the first public hearing.) HCC will request a second hearing.

S. Portland Grassroots Pesticide Ban:

The Sustainability Coordinator, working with the Parks and Storm Water coordinators in South Portland, are researching possible directions and plan to present steps at a future workshop

Skillins Plant Nursery of Brunswick and Falmouth:

Beginning in spring 2016, neonics and Roundup pesticides will no longer be sold. They are beginning to stock less toxic substitutes to take their place. The manager felt Skillins could work with Harpswell to direct customers to products that would be acceptable with our new ordinance. We have been invited to their spring sales meeting in Falmouth. M. Nahf will make contact in January for more details

Compost Recycling:

A Portland company is now composting waste from nearby communities, including Brunswick, for redistribution back to the towns. Chuck Perow from Harpswell's Recycling Center will attend a future meeting to discuss some of his thoughts for the Town.

Updates:

Outreach:

Statewide Inventory on Winter Moth Infestations:

- A recent issue of the Anchor outlined a widespread resurgence of the moth, and requested that residents call Maine Forest Service at 287-2431 with location information. HCC will add the article to its web site. The information will also be distributed to Town residents via The Town Bulletin prior to the Annual Meeting and a handout put in the Town Office foyer.

Articles On Pesticide Ordinance:

- The January Anchor article will introduce and explain the new ordinance pertaining to pesticides and invite the public to the January 20 hearing. The February issue will outline the importance and reasons for the ordinance in protecting the marine environment.
- A. Perry will write an article on Garden Sustainability outlining the procedure for composting to produce healthy soils that, in turn, nourish the plants.
- W. Batson will draft an introductory letter describing the need to be licensed by the State to apply pesticides in Harpswell, and list the requirements for becoming a certified pesticide applicator.

Other: To Do Lists.

- B. Taylor will continue to expand on the list of commercial landscapers doing business in Harpswell. Members to submit any new names to him.
- M. Nahf met with arborist Jeff Gillis 12/14 for his views on the pesticide proposal. She will continue to solicit responses from the other two professional arborists.
- S. Vachon will continue to work on the Q & A list for distribution to residents ahead of the Annual Town Meeting.
- Address and outline controls for Brown Tail Moth, Winter Moth and Woolly Adelgid, all of which are invading the Town's trees. Information to be appended to the web page.
- W. Batson to synthesize and simplify MOFGA information on safe pesticide alternatives in order to beef up the HCC web site.

Sea Level Rise: (SLR)

D. Strachan, P. Ciesielski and W. Batson have researched and discussed the SLR Report for the Town. They will submit a summation of the issues raised, whom to consult under the various topics, and then compile an index of relevant articles on SLR. The information will be distributed via Drop Box to HCC members for discussion on the next steps at a letter meeting.

Adjourned: 4:25 PM.

Meetings: 01/06/2016 and 01/20/2016 at 3:00 PM.

Scribe: Ann Nemrow